S.R. NO. 131

MAR 1 3 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO MANAGE ENERGY LEASES ON PUBLIC LANDS VIA INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

WHEREAS, renewable energy projects advance the State's clean energy goals and will reduce the State's dependence on imported fossil fuel; and

WHEREAS, there are various opportunities for renewable energy projects to be developed and established on public land; and

WHEREAS, in recent years there have been repeated instances where public land was not available for the development of renewable energy projects due to the inefficient and poorly coordinated management of public lands; and

WHEREAS, the consistent and efficient management of public lands is necessary to the State's infrastructure and the wellbeing of the State's residents; and

WHEREAS, a single and well-coordinated land management system, under the direction and management of one agency, will provide better assurance that appropriate state lands are available for the development of renewable energy projects; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is urged to manage energy leases on public lands via interagency agreements with the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Department of Agriculture; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that following a determination that public land is suitable for the development of one or more renewable energy projects, the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is urged to make a timely disposition

of the land, so long as the public land has not been set aside for public use by any other department or agency of the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the public land has been set aside for public use by any other department or agency of the State, the department or agency is requested to verify that the public land is not required or being used for the purpose for which it was set aside prior to making a disposition of the land; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; and Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

OFFERED BY:

